falling between the international border and the border fencing, is cultivated by formers. It is reported that Pak troops let loose herds of cattle which enter this cultivated area and eat up/damage the standing crops. BSF sends its troops to stand guard and provide security, when the farmers are in their fields. Farmers are parmitted to fence their field with barbed wire at their own expense. Village Coordination Committees have also been formed to sort out genuine problems of the farmers.

Recruitment to SSB

4653. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a faci that at the time of recruitment of SSB only 75% of the vacant posts are to be recruited from the concerned States of Manipur and Nagaland and other 25% are from outside States;

(b) whether it is a fact that as for other States 100% are recruited from their States; and

(c) if so, why 25% are reserved for other States as for Manipur and Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Guidelines for recruitment of constables have been laid down keeping in view the need for better integration and functional expediency of the Organisation. A minimum limit of 45% for the recruitment of locals has been prescribed. In Manipur, the recruitment of is 50% from hill area, 25% from valley area and the remaining 25% from other States. In case of Nagaland, it is 50% locals, 25% from other States of North-East region and 25% of other SSB covered areas outside Nagaland.

Death due to Inhaling Poisonous Gas

4654. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether death of persons due to poisonous gas while digging a traditional well to meet shortage of drinking water has been reported in Najafgarh area of Delhi in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether death of more people is expected in Delhi by digging out covered traditional wells to meet water shortage in different parts of Delhi;

(d) whether Government propose to intervene in the matter and take serious steps to provide adequate supply of drinking water to Delhi people in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Five persons lost their lives on the 11th July, 1998 while trying to retrieve the tubewell bored into a well (located near the local village pond and not in use for the last 10-12 years), apparently as a result of inhaling some poisonous, gas emanating from the said well. Municipal Corporation of Delhi have decided to, inter alia, inspect all the wells located near ponds to ensure that they are closed down if found unsafe.

(d) and (e) Delhi Jal Board, on an average, supplies about 600 MGD potable water by optimising production at various water treatment plants against the demand of 800 MGD of water. The following measures have been taken to meet the demand for drinking water:

(a) 200 additional tubewells and 268 deep bore handpumps were installed in deficit areas during 1997-98 out of which 9 tubewells and 118 deep bore handpumps were installed in Najafgarh

area where the ground water is generally saline and not fit for drinking;

(b) A scheme for installation of 250 new tubewells and 200 additional deep bore hand-pumps during 1998-99 has been launched;

(c) 4 underground reservoirs and booster pumping stations located at Burari, Sultanpuri, Shastri Nagar and Holambi Kalan were commissioned during the current year; and

(d) about 1000 water trucks/tankers have been deployed for supplying potable water in far flung colonies, rural areas, slums/JJ clusters and other deficit areas.

RDX with Punjab Militants

4655. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrest of two suspected Punjab Militants alongwith 18 Kgs. of RDX and sophisticated ABCD timer devices in Punjabi Bagh area of West Delhi has been reported in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof with names of VIPs of Delhi who were in the hit-list of arrested terrorists;

(c) whether the militants can implant powerful bombs in the over-crowded buses in Delhi to take revenge of these arrests taking advantage of the situation; and

(d) if so, the steps to be taken to reduce over-crowding?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Delhi Police arrested two suspected militants on the 9th July, 1998 following the recovery of 18 kilograms of RDX, 4 ABCD Timers, etc. from a truck in Punjabi Bagh area of Delhi. The interrogation of the arrested persons has not so far revealed that any particular VIP was on their hit-list.

(c) and (d) The terrorists have the inherent advantage of selecting the time, place and target for perpetuating their ghastly acts. The buses carrying passengers are especially vulnerable in this context. Delhi Police on their part have taken several measures to prevent such crimes. These include intensified deployment of police personnel at Inter-State Bus Terminus and Railway Stations in Delhi; random checking of buses; and increased surveillance on suspected hide-outs of militants.

Smugglers Nexus with Police

4656. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen the news-item appearing in The Hindustan Times on 2nd July, 1998, under the heading "6 Pak nationals escape";

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that some Pakistani nationals who entered India for spying were detained at the joint interrogation centre at Bhuj (Kutch) escaped from police custody;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is a fact that Kutch area is the centre of Pakistani smugglers who visit both countries without any restrictions as they have nexus with the security and police agencies; and

(e) if so, cases of this nature occurred during the last five years and the number of complaints received against involvement of police or security agencies, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Facts of the matter are that on the night of June 30/July 1st, 1998, six Pak nationals (including four of Bangladesh origin) detained in Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) Bhuj (Gujarat) escaped from police custody by breaking the iron grille of the toilet. Five